

Appl. No. 09/986,893

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Allowable Claims

The Examiner has indicated that claims 11-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claim 11 has been rewritten to incorporate the limitations of claim 1. Claims 11-13 should now be allowable.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 18 -23 have been rejected, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,994,844, issued to Crawford et al.

With respect to claim 1, the Examiner has stated that Crawford discloses a "photo-sensor (20) as a sensor for sensing operational parameters (eg. reflected light) of the light generator" (emphasis added). The examiner has also stated that Crawford discloses a "micro-controller (19) as a light source data storage device permanently integrated with the light generator (12) and operatively coupled to the sensor (20), for storing operational parameters data correlated to the operational parameters of the light generator" (emphasis added).

The applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has read claimed limitations into Crawford, which are not in fact disclosed in that reference. Crawford teaches very different subject matter than that claimed in the present application.

Crawford discloses a video lighthouse configured to vary the power supplied to a light source to maintain ambient light at a constant level of illumination. Claim 1 of the present application is directed to a light source having a sensor for sensing operational parameters of the light generator. This claimed structure is neither shown nor suggested in Crawford.

The photo-sensor 20 in Crawford is aligned to detect the ambient light reflected from a subject (see col. 1, lines 25-29 and col. 2, lines 60-67). Ambient light includes light emitted from all external sources. While the light emitted by the lamp 12 will often affect the ambient light detected by the photo-sensor 20, the sensor 20 does not detect the intensity of the light emitted by the lamp 12 or any operational parameters of the lamp 12 (nor is it intended to). The sensor 20 detects the ambient light as a whole. The Crawford device increases or decreases the duty cycle (or power supplied) to the lamp 12 in order to attempt to maintain the detected ambient light at a desired level (see col. 3, ln 15 - 23.)

Furthermore, claim 1 is directed to a light source having a light source data storage device for storing operational parameters data correlated to the operational parameters of the light generator. Again, this claimed structure is neither shown nor suggested in Crawford.

The micro-controller 19 in Crawford stores a desired duty cycle control value (col. 3, ln. 28 - 34). The controller 19 also stores the value of the reflected ambient light measured by the photo-sensor 20. Neither of these types of values could fairly be construed as an operational parameter of the lamp 12.

As well, claim 1 is directed to a light source having a light source data storage device permanently integrated with the light generator. This claimed structure is neither shown nor suggested in Crawford.

It is submitted that contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Crawford does not disclose the micro-controller 19 as a light source data storage device permanently integrated with the light generator 12. Crawford merely shows an operational connection between the lamp 12 and the controller 19. There is no teaching in Crawford to suggest that the micro-controller 19 remains coupled to lamp 12, when the lamp 12 is removed from the video lighthead, for replacement or other purposes.

As indicated in the present application, the advantages of integrating the data storage device with the light generator include the fact that the operating history of the light generator remains with the specific light source. Thus, the light source is removed from a light emitting device, the stored operational parameters of that light source may be retrieved to confirm if the light source has performed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. As well, a user may be interested in knowing what the stored operational parameters of the light source are, which can be determined from the claimed light source even if the light source has been removed from a light emitting device.

Crawford is not capable of providing these benefits. The claimed structure is a new structure which achieves these new advantages. With the prior art such as Crawford, if a light source is removed from the device, it is not possible to determine any operational parameters specific to that light source.

As a result, it is submitted that the subject matter of claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon (claims 2-5) are neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Crawford.

With respect to claim 18, the Examiner has stated that Crawford discloses "a micro-controller (19) comprising RAM as a non-volatile light source data storage device integrated with the light generator (12) ... configured to store operational parameters data" (emphasis added).

As noted previously, the controller 19 in Crawford is not configured to and does not store operational parameters data.

Furthermore, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, there is no suggestion in Crawford that the controller 19 is a non-volatile data storage device configured to store operational parameters data. Crawford does not teach that the controller 19 or RAM continues to store reflected light data when power is no longer supplied to the controller 19. To the contrary, one skilled in the art would understand that a micro-controller 19 would not include non-volatile RAM. Col. 2, lines 48-67 (and claims 1 and 2) of Crawford simply teach that the memory stores certain data. A device which stores data for recall at a later time does not suggest or imply that the storage device is non-volatile. Furthermore, turning off the video lighthouse 2 is not the same as disconnecting all power to the controller 19. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 18 and all claims which depend therefrom (claims 19-23) are neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Crawford and is allowable.

Additionally, claim 19 requires the storage device to store operational parameters data associated only with said light generator, which is neither taught nor suggested in Crawford. As noted above, the ambient light intensity detected and stored in memory in Crawford (col. 2, lns 65-67) includes light from external light sources. It is submitted that claim 19 is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Crawford and is allowable.

With respect to claim 21, there is no suggestion in Crawford that the controller 19 is mounted to the lamp 12. Crawford merely shows an operational connection to the lamp 12. The Examiner has read into Crawford this claim element which is not supported in the reference. It is submitted that claim 21 is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Crawford and is allowable.

Similarly, with respect to claims 22 and 23, the Examiner's assertion that the controller 19 is "inseparably integrated with" and "permanently affixed to" the light generator 12 is merely unfounded supposition. As noted above, there is no suggestion in Crawford that if the lamp 12 is removed from the video lighthouse 2, the controller 19 will remain with the lamp 12. It is submitted that claims 22 and 23 are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of Crawford and are allowable.

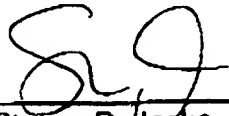
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".

It is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

11. (Once Amended) A light source reader in combination with ~~the~~ a light source ~~of claim 1,~~ the light source comprising.

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(a) a light generator.

(b) a sensor for sensing operational parameters of the light generator.

(c) a light source data storage device permanently integrated with the light generator and operatively coupled to the sensor, for storing operational parameters data correlated to the operational parameters of the light generator; and

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(d) a light source connector adapted to operatively couple the light source to a light emitting device.

wherein the light source reader comprising comprises:

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~~(a)~~(e) a reader housing;

~~(b)~~(f) a controller for selectively retrieving the operational parameters data from the light source data storage device;

~~(c)~~(g) a reader connector for releasably operationally coupling the controller to the light source data storage device; and

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~~(d)~~(h) a power source mounted to the reader housing and operatively coupled to the controller.